WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Strike by engineers and pilots of Indian Airlines

*162. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARHAGAVAN: SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Line Engineers and Pilots in the Indian Airlines went on strike recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of flights delayed/cancelled/dislocated due to this strike especially from Santa Cruz, Bombay;

(d) the losses suffered, if any; and

(e) the remedial measures taken to prevent such strikes?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). Aircraft maintenance engineers of Indian Airlines had resorted to a "go slow" in the first week of October, 1991 on the issue of parity in pay with maintenance engineers of Air India. Further some pilots reported sick on the 3rd and 4th of November, 1991.

(c) A total of 398 flights were delayed. Two flights from Bombay were cancelled. 13 other flights were combined into 6 flights and one flights was withdrawn.

(d) It is difficult to estimate precisely the loss, particularly arising from delayed flights.

(e) The issue of parity in pay scales stands referred to the National Industrial Tribunal. The management is also committed to enforce discipline and maintain good industrial relations through close inter-action with workers.

Trains without Brake-Van for Guards

*163. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many trains run without the brake van for guards;

(b) whether this practice jeopardises the safety of passengers; and

(c) if so, the remedial steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c). No passenger train runs without brake-van. However, due to operational exigencies, goods trains are sometimes run without brake-van in exceptional circumstances. Whenever the goods trains are run without brake-van, the safety precautions prescribed as per extant rules are followed to ensured safety. Goods brake-van are being manufactured regularly to provide adequate numbers to run all goods trains with brake-vans.

Homoeopathic Medicines

*168. DR. C. SILVERRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the manufacture of substandard drugs has marred the progress of homoeopathic system of medicine in the country; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the action proposed to be taken in this regard?